

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

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CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8080

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3968

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, IV

SU: LAW OF THE SEA

REF: (A) STATE 099357 (B) STATE 093307 (C) STATE 085109

(D) ABIDJAN 2733 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR CALLED ON GOIC MINISTER OF MARINE AFFAIRS APRIL 23 TO DISCUSS US LOS POSITION IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 SPEECH, IMPACT OF US 200-MILE FISHERIES LEGISLATION, AND TO REITERATE IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY LOS OFFICER CALLED ON MINISTER OF MARINE AFFAIRS LAMINE FADIGA TO EXPLAIN US VIEWS ON VARIOUS LOS ISSUES AS INSTRUCTED REFTELS (B) AND (C).

2. COMMENTING ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE US 200-MILE FISHERIES LEGISLATION, (REF B), FADIGA EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE
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THAT THE LEGISLATION WAS AS LIMITED AS IT WAS, NAMELY TO

CERTAIN SPECIES OF FISH AND FISHING RIGHTS IN THE 200-MILE ZONE, NOT INCLUDING MINERAL AND OTHER RIGHTS AS ENVISAGED IN THE AFRICAN CONCEPT OF THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT NEW US LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED PROVISIO FOR SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATION TO COMPLY WITH ANY COMPREHEVSIVE LOS TREATY WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. FADIGA ALSO NOTED IN PASSING THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF CONCEPT PRESENTED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR ON SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 SPEECH (REF C), FADIGA COMMENTED THAT HE SAW SUBSTANTIAL FORWARD MOVEMENT IN US POSITION BOTH WITH RESPECT TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND TO PROPOSALS FOR CREATION OF AN INTERNATINAL AUTHORITY AND ACCESS TO DEEP SEABED RESOURCES. FADIGA REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID IN A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION (REF D) THAT IVORY COAST WAS NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED TO THE CONCEPT OF PRIVATE COMPANIES EXPLOITING THE DEEP SEABED AND SAID THAT HE THOUGHT A COMPROMISE COULD BE NEGOTIATED ON THIS POINT.

COMMENT: THERE MAY STILL BE SOME SLIGHT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE US AND IVORIAN POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, AS FADIGA INDICATED THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY SHOULD BE A SORT OF REGULATORY ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD GRANT LICENSES AND SET GUIDELINES FOR EXPLORATION THUS GRANTING IT MORE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OVER PRIVATE COMPANIES THAN US POSITION MIGHT FAVOR. END COMMENT.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO REITERATED IMPORATNCE WHICH US ATTACHES TO LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND SENSE OF URGENCY THAT THEY BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT HAS ASKED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO HEAD US DELEGATION PERSONALLY AT PROPOSED SECOND SESSION TO BE HELD DURING SUMMER. FADIGA SAID IVORY COAST FULLY SHARED US VIEW OF IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED CONFIENCE THAT A LOS TREATY COULD BE ACHIEVED. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE GONG TO NEW YORK FOR THIS SESSION AS HE HAD JUST HEARD IT WAS TO BE ADJOURNED MAY 7 IN FAVOR OF A SECOND SESSION IN JULY. FADIGA SAID HW WOULD PRESONALLY ATTEND SECOND SESSION AND REMAIN FOR DEFINITIVE STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. COMMENT: BELIEVE THIS REPRESENTATION ALSO COVERS THE DEMARCHE AMBASSADOR INSTRUCTED TO MAKE IN RE (A) ON IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY US ATTACHES TO NEGOTIATIONS. S INDICATED ABOVE GOIC SHARES THAT VIEW AND IS IN FAVOR OF HOLDING AN ADDITIONAL LOS CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER.
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